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AVIAN HAVEN

Wild Bird Rehabilitation Center

Favorite Images of 2012





December, 2012

As the end of the calendar year approaches, our thoughts turn to the highlights of the 2012 rehab season. Our retrospective includes not only the birds that came through our doors, but also the contributions that enabled them to receive high-quality care. Your continuing support has meant a great deal to the birds at Avian Haven, whether that support took the form of time, money, services, advice, or good wishes. So in this season of traditional gift-giving, we thank you on behalf of all of our patients, and hope you will enjoy some of our favorite images of the last 11 months.



Variations in the color and shape of birds' faces are endlessly fascinating; we can only guess what their markings must convey to others of their kind. Here are just a few of the combinations in water birds that we found particularly distinctive: Northern Gannet (top left); Great Cormorant (top right), Common Eider (bottom left), Great Black-backed Gull (bottom right).





Juvenile raptors are always engaging — perhaps our favorite image of the year was that of a young Broad-winged Hawk (photos to left), but we also loved the trio of Barred Owls shown to the right as well as the quartet of Great Horned Owls below.





Several birds were caught bathing, including a Blue Jay (top left), European Starling (bottom left), and a Common Raven (bottom right). However only the raven was ever seen taking an object (in this case, the bath toy was a yogurt cup) into the water.



The look-alike nestlings shown to the right are actually three species: (left to right) a Chipping Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Song Sparrow.



The most interesting nestling mouth belonged to a Black-billed Cuckoo (below right). The cream-colored bulges on the roof of the mouth may help the nestling grasp live insects fed by the parents.



We have to wonder what this Eastern Kingbird (on the left) is telling the nearby Tree Swallow.

In the photos below, another young Tree Swallow seems to be giving it right back to a juvenile Eastern Bluebird.

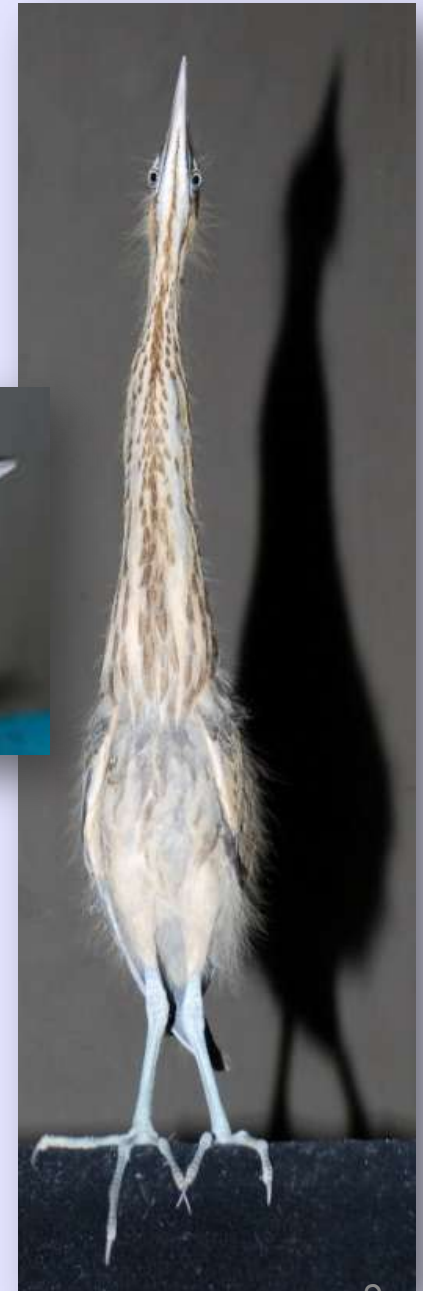


Maybe Spider-Man
should move over for
this White-breasted
Nuthatch.



These two young
American Woodcocks
appear to begin a
pas de deux.

In some positions, it's hard to appreciate the astonishing neck length of herons like this American Bittern (right) and Great Blue Heron (left).



A young Black Guillemot particularly enjoys smelt. . .



... while a Pine Grosbeak preferred winterberries.



Among the raptors,
Northern Goshawks in flight
are particularly awesome . . .



... but few species can match the fearsome poses of Ospreys.



Yet the largest of
the raptors is
perhaps also the
most revered.



One of the 31 Bald Eagles admitted so far in 2012 returns to life in the wild.



Photos by Terry Heitz



May you have a warm, safe
and happy winter, complete
with wonderful holidays!



Photos are by
Glori Berry
unless otherwise
credited.



*Our best regards and
thanks for your support,*

Diane and Marc

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